

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed August 6, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 1 is canceled. Claims 2-13 are amended. Claims 2-13 are pending in this application, with claim 2 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,230,506 (Clark).

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Clark, EP 360254, English Abstract of Russian patent '873 or English Abstract of Russian patent '123.

Independent claim 1 is canceled. Independent claim 2 has been amended in accordance with Examiner's recommendations in the last paragraph of page 3 of the office action. The Examiner indicated that these amendments would place the claim in condition for allowance. The preamble of independent claim 2 is amended to recite a friction clutch which includes a friction element with the recited limitations. The preambles of dependent claims 3-12 are also amended to be consistent with the amendments to independent claim 2.

None of the references Clark, EP 0 360 254, English Abstract of Russian patent '873 and English Abstract of Russian patent '123, alone or in combination, teach or suggest use of the recited material as a friction element in a friction clutch. Clark relates to cam shafts, EP 0 360 254 relates to an automotive brake system, and the Russian patents each describe a specific alloy.

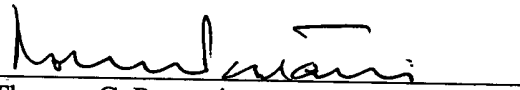
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 2 is allowable over Clark, EP 360254, English Abstract of Russian patent '873 and English Abstract of Russian patent '123. Dependent claims 3-13, being dependent on independent claim 2, are allowable for the same reasons as is independent claim 2.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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